

News

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA PRICES INCREASE 0.8 PERCENT SINCE APRIL

Consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area increased 0.8 percent since April 2000. Transportation costs, fueled by higher gasoline prices, accounted for a major portion of the overall increase according to Stanley P. Stephenson, Regional Commissioner for the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Since June 1999, the all items index has risen 3.7 percent. During the same period, the all items less food and energy index, or "core rate", increased 2.8 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

Gasoline (all types) advanced 4.4 percent since April. Within gasoline grade types, however, a different story emerges. For each of the past two months, prices for unleaded premium and unleaded midgrade have declined, while unleaded regular has increased. Since April 2000, premium and midgrade gasoline fell 5.4 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively. During the same period, regular gasoline jumped up 11.5 percent. Higher pump prices advanced the transportation index to 1.1 percent during the past two months. Overall transportation costs show a gain of 6.7 percent over-the-year.

Housing's importance to the overall index made its two month 1.5 percent gain the strongest contributor to the all items index. During the same period, shelter advanced 1.7 percent since April. The rent of primary residence index and owners' equivalent category increased 0.6 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Fuels and utility costs advanced a moderate 0.2 percent for the past two months. Costs for household furnishings and operations advanced 0.9 percent since April, equaling the increase from February to April.

Food and beverages inched up 0.1 percent during the past two months. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, showed an increase of 1.3 percent over-the-month, despite registering monthly declines of 0.5 percent in April and 1.5 percent in May. The cost for food away from home advanced 0.8 percent in the two-month period, and 3.4 percent for the past 12 months. Alcoholic beverages' prices declined 0.2 percent from April to June, while showing a gain of 1.8 percent from a year ago.

Price tags for apparel are showing a 4.2 percent drop since April. This decline compares to decreases of 2.7 percent and 3.6 percent for the two-month change ending in June 1998 and June 1999, respectively. Nevertheless, apparel prices are 1.0 percent higher than a year ago.

Medical care costs have climbed 1.9 percent during the past two months, and posted a gain of 3.3 percent over last year's levels. Recreation costs advanced 0.6 percent April-June, after posting declines of 0.1 percent for each of the past two bi-monthly periods. However, during the past 12 months, recreation costs show a modest gain of 0.8 percent. Costs for other goods and services are 0.5 percent higher than reported in April, and 4.3 percent above a year ago. Education and communication costs rose a moderate 0.3 percent since April, while declining a modest 0.2 percent over-the-year.

The June 0.8 percent increase brought the All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area to 179.1 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$179.10 in June 2000.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Expenditure category						
All items	177.7	-	179.1	3.7	0.8	-
All items (1967=100)	541.6	-	546.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages	172.9	-	173.1	2.7	0.1	-
Food	173.5	-	173.7	2.8	0.1	-
Food at home	173.0	170.4	172.6	2.4	-0.2	1.3
Food away from home	175.9	-	177.3	3.4	0.8	-
Alcoholic beverages	168.4	-	168.0	1.8	-0.2	-
Housing	182.1	-	184.8	4.1	1.5	-
Shelter	200.5	202.2	203.9	3.7	1.7	0.8
Rent of primary residence (1).....	190.8	191.4	192.0	3.2	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	207.4	208.6	210.0	4.0	1.3	0.7
Fuels and utilities	126.9	-	127.1	5.3	0.2	-
Fuels	120.9	120.8	120.9	7.0	0.0	0.1
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	145.3	145.3	145.4	6.8	0.1	0.1
Electricity (1).....	156.4	156.4	156.4	4.1	0.0	0.0
Utility natural gas service (1).....	100.3	100.3	100.7	15.1	0.4	0.4
Household furnishings and operations	167.3	-	168.8	5.4	0.9	-
Apparel	131.1	-	125.6	1.0	-4.2	-
Transportation	158.5	-	160.3	6.7	1.1	-
Private transportation	163.0	-	164.7	6.5	1.0	-
Motor fuel	159.8	155.0	166.8	30.6	4.4	7.6
Gasoline (all types)	162.9	157.9	170.1	30.7	4.4	7.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3).....	166.7	161.0	185.9	41.0	11.5	15.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4).....	140.5	136.5	132.5	17.3	-5.7	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3).....	163.8	160.0	155.0	15.7	-5.4	-3.1
Medical care	242.8	-	247.4	3.3	1.9	-
Recreation (5).....	100.7	-	101.3	0.8	0.6	-
Education and communication (5).....	103.3	-	103.6	-0.2	0.3	-
Other goods and services	265.0	-	266.4	4.3	0.5	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Commodity and service group						
All items	177.7	-	179.1	3.7	0.8	-
Commodities	156.7	-	156.8	3.8	0.1	-
Commodities less food and beverages	147.8	-	147.9	4.4	0.1	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	149.6	-	149.7	7.3	0.1	-
Durables	146.4	-	146.6	1.1	0.1	-
Services	198.0	-	200.6	3.6	1.3	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	174.5	-	175.8	3.7	0.7	-
All items less shelter	169.8	-	170.4	3.7	0.4	-
Commodities less food	148.5	-	148.6	4.4	0.1	-
Nondurables	161.1	-	161.2	4.9	0.1	-
Nondurables less food	150.6	-	150.6	6.8	0.0	-
Services less rent of shelter (2)	200.3	-	201.9	3.4	0.8	-
Services less medical care services	194.4	-	196.8	3.6	1.2	-
Energy	141.8	139.1	145.4	20.1	2.5	4.5
All items less energy	182.4	-	183.7	2.9	0.7	-
All items less food and energy	184.5	-	185.9	2.8	0.8	-

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

3 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.